

COMMISSION

FOR THE

PUBLICATION OF THE ANCIENT LAWS AND INSTITUTES OF IRELAND.

REPORT

DATED 8TH AUGUST, 1892.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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REPORT

OF THE

BREHON LAW COMMISSIONERS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Since the date of our last Report to Your Excellency, the preparation of the two volumes which yet remain to complete the publication of the Brehon Laws, has been diligently carried on.

The fifth volume, containing text and translation, has been printed off; and the sixth, including glossarial matter and indices, is so far advanced that the Editor expects to have both volumes published concurrently at the end of 1893.

The compilation of the Glossary, which will cover the entire work, and in which the Editor's comments on and explanations of obscure words and difficult portions of the text will be embodied, involves great care and labour.

Celtic scholars, who know what elaborate glossaries have been annexed by men of learning in our own and other countries, as necessary adjuncts to Irish works edited by them, can estimate the labour of executing a task of that nature in connexion with an edition of the Brehon Laws. As the texts of these documents and the commentaries on them represent different conditions of the language as it existed at different times, the Editor will have to deal with many philological questions in constructing the Glossary, upon the fulness and accuracy of which the trustworthiness of the translation will depend.

In prosecuting this portion of his task the Editor has toiled with a diligence which has at times affected his health and sight. He has for a long time past been devoting himself exclusively to his work on the Brehon Laws, putting aside every other employment except his necessary duties as a Professor in Trinity College, Dublin.

The Commissioners think it right to notice that the Editor, Dr. Atkinson, with a sensitiveness which is honorable to him, has declined to receive payment out of the funds granted by Parliament for work remaining in an unfinished state, though they fully acknowledge that he has well earned remuneration by what he has already done. Some of the moneys granted have thus been returned into the Treasury, and the Lords of the Treasury will duly consider this when the publication is complete.

The Commissioners calculate that the sum of £200, which appeared in the Civil Service Estimates for the current year, will be required before next April for the purpose of paying, in part, for work done by the Editor.

Dated 8th August, 1892.

ASHBOURNE, *G.*
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